

REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL
Tuesday January 26, 2010
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER at 10:03 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September and October approved by consensus.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS – Mental Health and Supportive Housing

Jon Schmid and Kalie Standish from Cook & Schmid conducted a focus group concerning the perceived mental health service needs. The assessment collected information on the geographic areas and roles represented in the respondents and the concerns, attitudes, awareness, and education and information needs of service providers, elected officials and media regarding supportive housing and mental illness. It is hoped that the focus group information can be used to create interventions to alleviate community stigma of homeless and mentally ill persons and decrease NIMBYism. Jim Jackson (N.C. Serenity House) was a strategic consultant for Cook & Schmid. RCCC members responded to all items on the questionnaire and made recommendations for rephrasing some items. Cook & Schmid will be preparing a report of their findings.

ACTIVITY UPDATES

SHP Announcement- Dolores Diaz – Both Consortium applications for renewal were fully funded. Renewal contracts are expected to be release from Washington, D.C. rather than the regional field office. Budget amendment requests should be careful to comply with the established time lines. Decisions on awards for new projects are expected in later Spring (late April – May). We anticipate the 2010 SHP application to be released soon after the announcement of the new awards’.

Employment Forum – Dave Siegler – Jack Micklos – The Employment Forum, focused on using technology in the search for jobs will be held at the Salvation Army Door of Hope on February 23rd. This is an education session that any agency representative can attend. Presenters from the Union Tribune, Jobing.com, Monster.Com, and a special training program offered by Navy personnel will be featured.

Project Homeless Connect Update – Rosemary Johnston reported that more than 400 people were served at PHC in December. The Ramsberger Foundation was recognized for their generous support of the event. A formal report will be prepared. It is hoped that future events can also be hosted in the outlying county. Thanks were extended to the members who volunteered to coordinate this event – (Rosemary: ISN; Julie- StVdP: Tom – RTFH)

Data Quality – Point In Time Count –Peter Callstrom / Tiffany Bevilaqua provided a reminder that the Point In Time Count is set for Friday, January 29th. Contact information for the nine area coordinators and the maps they are responsible for was distributed. Anyone wanting to volunteer should contact the appropriate area coordinator.

HUD – HIC Change - HUD has issued rule changes for submitting the Homeless Inventory Chart (HIC) the HIC is a critical document that sets the baseline for HUD’s assessment of our CoCs services and performance in achieving certain goals. This year both a program level staff and the Executive Director of the agencies are being asked to verify and sign the HIC information for their programs. The city and County HICs are due to the Steering Committee no later than

March 30th. Then they will be entered into the automated HDX system before the end of April. Please pay close attention to communications from the RTFH regarding this important process.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Elections – A recommendation to list Laurin Pause on the slate of nominees for the Steering Committee was received. A slate of nominees for three open Steering Committee seats needs to be prepared and elections held prior to the February forum. The RCCC agreed to conduct these actions electronically. Nominees can be placed on the slate and are asked to circulate their qualifications to serve. Members were asked to identify if they would need to decline service if elected. No members voiced a concern.

Veterans' Network of Care presentation. The Veterans Administration at the state level is introducing a new resource for veterans. A special section of the Network of Care website has been established for veterans in California. The site has several functions and is rich with information. Currently there is an effort to try to add “real time” housing access information to the site. The presenters may convene a special focus group with veteran-specific and housing providers to discuss the merits of the plan and the potential for coordinating with the 2-1-1 system.

SUBCOMMITTEE and LIAISON REPORTS

Housing Liaisons – HOC HIV – Hannah Cohen – The HOC is planning to open a homeless resource center in September at the SD Housing Commission location at 1122 Broadway. The center will add computers and access to a variety of services from the center. Watch for more information.

PTECH – PTECH was rebranded as the Home Again project in late December. Sara Parra, Community Impact Manager from United Way who staffed this effort is leaving to accept a position in another non-profit organization. Sara was recognized for her advocacy on behalf of the service providers during her tenure with PTECH.

HPRP – Asset Evaluation Policy – HUD regulations require that the HPRP eligibility assessment for assets be uniform throughout each CoC. A brief discussion of potential policies was held at the last SD Grantmaker's HPRP Providers meeting. The Steering Committee asked permission to act on behalf of the full RCCC to develop a policy recommendation for the grantees operating the eight HPRP programs in the region. The request was approved. M/S/C with two abstaining. The Steering Committee will prepare and forward its recommendation within 30 days.

Census Planning- The U.S. Census Bureau will be collecting information from homeless persons throughout the region on the night of March 31st. Members of the special 2010 census bureau staff are reaching out to many agencies in the San Diego area to help design and conduct the count. Several RCCC Members are participating and Census Bureau staff have also volunteered to participate in the January PIT count. Although it may take an extended period of time to get census results, it will be helpful to compare their results with our PIT. Census data is used in many ways at the federal level. So members are encouraged to offer support and insight where feasible.

Legislative Committee – Rosemary Johnston – A report is being distributed electronically. A summary follows:

Federal Report: The House and Senate reconvened after the December break. Now Congress' will be to begin work on fiscal year (FY) 2011 appropriations legislation, which provides funding

for all federal homelessness programs. President Obama is expected to release his budget request on February 1, and then Congress will begin to draft a budget resolution. The budget resolution sets out the targets and assumptions that will guide Congress as it passes the annual appropriations and other budget bills.

Continuum of Care Awards: As you know (HUD) announced the fiscal year (FY) 2009 Continuum of Care awards for renewal projects. Renewal awards are being made separately from awards for new projects to ensure that projects needing renewal do not face any interruption of funding. Of the nearly \$1.4 billion awarded for project renewals, \$738 million was for permanent housing for families and individuals.

Congress Passed Omnibus Spending Package: Congress finalized passage of a compromise version of fiscal year (FY) 2010 appropriations legislation for most of the remaining FY 2010 spending bills, as follows:

Second Chance Act Grant Programs: \$100 million (\$75 million increase)

Transitional Housing for Victims of Domestic Violence: \$18 million (level funding)

Housing First Initiative in the District of Columbia for Permanent Supportive Housing: \$17 million (new)

Helping Disconnected Youth in Washington, DC Connect to Positive School- and Work-Related Activities: \$4 million (new)

New Veterans Homelessness Prevention Pilot: \$26 million (new)

Homeless Veterans Grant and Per Diem Program: \$150 million (\$6 million increase)

Supportive Services for Low-Income Veterans and Their Families: \$20 million

Hiring Additional Personnel for HUD-VASH Program: \$21 million

Renovation of Vacant VA Medical Campuses to Provide Housing and Supportive Services for Homeless Veterans: \$50 million (new)

Health Care for the Homeless Program: \$187 million (level funding)

SAMHSA Homeless Services: \$75 million (level funding)

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Basic Centers and Transitional Living Program: \$97.5 million (\$500,000 increase)

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Street Outreach Program: \$18.25 million (\$250,000 increase)

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness: \$65 million (\$5 million increase)

Education for Homeless Children and Youth: \$65 million (level funding)

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program: \$36.33 million (\$8 million increase)

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP): \$5.1 billion (level funding)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants: \$1.865 billion (\$188 million increase)

Section 8 Tenant-Based Vouchers: \$18.2 billion (\$1.2 billion increase), including:

New HUD-VASH Vouchers: \$75 million

New Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers: \$15 million

Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers: \$8.5 billion (\$1.4 billion increase)

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA): \$335 million (\$25 million increase)

Section 811 Housing for People with a Disability: \$300 million (\$50 million increase)

Section 202 Housing for the Elderly: \$825 million (\$60 million increase)

Public Housing Capital Fund: \$2.5 billion (\$50 million increase)

Public Housing Operating Fund: \$4.775 billion (\$320 million increase)

Community Development Block Grant: \$4.45 billion (\$550 million increase)

HOPE VI: \$200 million (\$130 million increase), including up to \$65 million for a demonstration program, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative

State Report: The Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development will conduct a hearing on **the next steps in addressing homelessness** from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the Capitol Building in Sacramento....Corporation for supportive Housing has issued **Between the Lines: A Question and Answer Guide on Legal Issues in Supportive Housing.** The guide is available on their website:

The annual Housing California Conference will be held April 26-28 in the Sacramento Convention Center Registration for the conference will open in early March...

The United Way of Greater Los Angeles Poverty Resource Center and Children Now have issued the *California Report Card 2010* which details how well California children are doing in areas of health, child safety, and education. The report indicates significant gaps for low income families and minorities.

The California Budget Project issued a report entitled *Food Within Reach: Strategies for Increasing Participation in the Food Stamp Program in California*. The report concluded that less than half of eligible Californians participated in the food stamp program in 2007.

California Supreme Court rejected an appeal in *Palmer/Sixth Street Properties v. City of Los Angeles*. In that case, the developer successfully argued that a requirement to offer apartments at below market rate rents or pay an in lieu fee in consideration of project approval violates the states' rent control law. This decision will have a negative impact on the availability of funding and development of affordable rental housing...

The United Way of Greater Los Angeles has issued a report entitled *Where We Sleep: Costs When Homeless and Housed in Los Angeles*. The report, published by the Economic Roundtable, indicates that the average monthly cost for supportive housing residents is \$605 compared to \$2,897 for a person homeless or not housed. \

United Way of Greater Los Angeles issued another report *Struggling to Make Ends Meet in California*. The report indicates that the Greater San Diego region has an income inadequacy rate nearly equal to the overall statewide rate(30% locally compared to 31% statewide) and has the lowest rate of households living below the standard that receive food stamps. \\\

Housing California has a reported entitled *Housing Situation* which demonstrates who in our community is priced out of the housing market. For info, go to www.housingca.org

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed \$8.5 billion in cuts to the state budget to address the state's \$19.9 billion shortfall. Among programs targeted are CalWorks, Health Families, SSI, Medi-cal, and In Home Supportive Services, and a \$0 allocation for domestic violence programs.

Local Report: The San Diego Foundation's Civil Society Working Group is conducting a series of visioning workshops. The topic this month is *The Challenges and Opportunities of Imagining the Future of the Greater San Diego Region*. To register, e-mail

The 21st annual Women's Resource Fair for homeless and indigent women is scheduled for Saturday, March 6 at Golden Hall. Transportation will be provided to and from shelter and recovery programs regionwide. Services at the fair will include child care, legal services, medical care, pet care, self defense, pastoral care, foot washing, grooming demonstrations, mental health counseling and a free breakfast and lunch. A website should be up soon. Flyers in English and Spanish will be distributed at today's RCCC meeting and by e-mail...

Leadership: San Diego City Council member Todd Gloria will remain chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee, and Supervisor Pam Slater-Price is the new chair of the County Board of Supervisors...

City of San Diego winter shelter tent which provides 220 beds will remain open until March 31. For information, phone Karen Pucci at (619)542-1877 or e-mail her at karenpucci@alphaproject.org ..The winter shelter for homeless veterans is also open now until April 8. Contact info is Eddie Agosto at (619)756-4811 or e-mail him at wintershelter@vvsd.net

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING

**SPECIAL SESSION -
EMPLOYMENT FORUM**

FEBRUARY 23rd

10:00 AM – Noon

SALVATION ARMY DOOR OF HOPE